



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF

# The City of Buffalo Common Council

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Darius G. Pridgen, President | Christopher P. Scanlon, President Pro Tempore | David A. Rivera, Majority Leader

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Common Council Negotiates, Amends, and Approves the City Budget

*Among the changes amended and approved by the Common Council, includes reducing the proposed tax increase, removing the City User Fee, and eliminating ShotSpotter*

**Buffalo, N.Y.** - The Buffalo Common Council held a special session to vote on the Mayor's proposed budget Friday afternoon in Buffalo Common Council Chambers.

In the Council's changes to the budget, the Council was able to negotiate and amend the following items:

- Reduce proposed 4.5% tax increase down to a 3.5% tax increase
- Eliminate Shot Spotter that was proposed under the Police Budget
- Remove the City User Fee from budget
- Reduce raises down by \$750,000 (5.5% raise for employees)
- Eliminated vacant positions (\$420,000 in the budget)

"The Council today voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's budget with amendments and though some of those amendments were very important to the communities, such as, taking out the user fee raise, lowering of his initial request of taxes, the elimination of Shot Spotter technology until communities have been educated and until the police are educated by the communities. There was also an elimination of top officials raises and a small raise for some of our lowest paid workers. So, we feel that this was a responsible budget and that there were responsible changes to that budget and we worked closely with the Administration to make these changes happen," said Council President Darius G. Pridgen.

"When we were presented with this year's budget, I immediately stated I would not vote in favor of an increase in user fee or for disproportionately high raises. By eliminating these portions of the budget, along with a reduction in the proposed tax increase, we are able to lessen the financial burden on the residents of The City of Buffalo while implementing some of the



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measures required to provide necessary and innovative services,” said President Pro Tempore Christopher P. Scanlon.

“After back and forth deliberation, I am pleased to be part of a group that reduced our tax obligation and eliminated user fee increases and we also reduced increases at a time where taxes are being increased,” said Majority Leader David A. Rivera.

“This is a tough process, we had back and forth conversations because we wanted more, as far as, reduction in taxes, but I think we did something significant for the residents and I hope they appreciate that we fought for them diligently,” said University District Council Member Rasheed N.C. Wyatt, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

“We did our very best to arrive at a compromise on the city budget which reflects not just today’s values, but tomorrow’s priorities. We’ve done our due diligence and I’m pleased with the budget we agreed upon together,” said Fillmore District Council Member Mitchell P. Nowakowski.

These negotiations will go to the Mayor’s office for final approval. For questions or more information, please contact the Central Staff Office at (716) 851-5105 or [councilstaff@buffalony.gov](mailto:councilstaff@buffalony.gov).

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